



For ages  
**Birth  
to 2**

# The Bookworm

From your  
local library  
and Idaho's Read  
to Me program

## Playing With Words

To understand a spoken language, a child must be able to hear the different sounds and parts of the words that make up the language. By playing with words and sounds children develop "phonological awareness." Most children who have phonological awareness have an easier time when they begin to learn to read later on.

Here's what you can do:

- Sing songs with your child every day. Songs naturally break words into syllables and are a fun way to learn about word sounds. In most songs, each syllable in a word gets a different note.
- Say nursery rhymes so that your child hears words that rhyme. Emphasize the rhyming words.
- Add actions, such as clapping, as you sing a song or say a poem. This helps your child break down language into separate words.
- Make up your own nonsense rhymes and silly songs.
- Play word games with your toddler, such as "What sounds like 'ran'?" or "What starts with the same sound as 'ball'?"
- Read and re-read stories your child enjoys.
- Catch your child's attention by repeating the sounds he likes to say. Then change the first letter to make a new silly word: *Baa-baa* becomes *la-la*.
- Talk with your young child throughout the day.
- Say rhymes and sing songs in the language most comfortable for you.

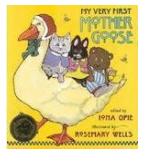
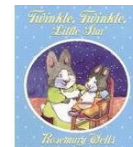
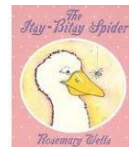
## Book of the Month

*Old MacDonald*, written  
and illustrated by  
**Rosemary Wells**

This wonderfully illustrated version of the popular song will have your little one quacking and mooing all day long!



Rosemary Wells has written and illustrated over 120 books and has won several awards. Here are some of her board books:



## Good books to help your child begin to play with words...

Rhyming books

Nursery Rhyme books, such as  
*Mother Goose*

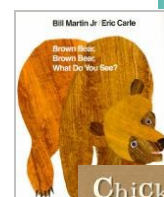
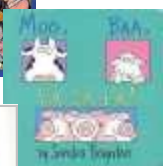
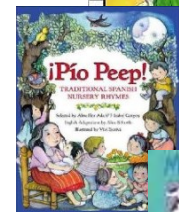
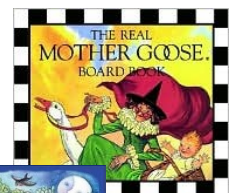
Songs that have been  
turned into books

Poetry books

Books with animal sounds

Books that have  
repeating words or  
sounds

Books that have rhythm



## More fun with *Old Mac Donald*

**Talk about it...** The last pages of the book give suggestions for other animal sounds. Ask your child, "Where is the pig?" Help him point. "What does a pig say? That's right, oink, oink!" Then sing the song again with the pig sounds. Stop when your child begins to lose interest. This is a great song to sing in the car or in the stroller!

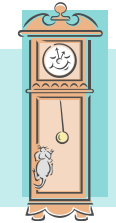
**Music and movement:** Put some rhythm into the song or in nursery rhymes! Bounce, clap, tap, stomp, drum, jump, snap... Giving each part of the word a beat will help your young child learn to break words into syllables.



## Nursery Rhymes

Nursery rhymes are a simple and easy way to help your child build rhyming skills. Research suggests that children who know lots of nursery rhymes before they begin school tend to find more success with learning to read. You can find books of nursery rhymes at your local library.

Hickory, Dickory Dock  
The mouse ran up the clock.  
The clock struck one,  
The mouse ran down.  
Hickory, Dickory, Dock.



### Online Resources

*Denver Public Library's podcasts of nursery rhymes and other stories:*

<http://podcast.denverlibrary.org/>

*Sites with nursery rhymes and activities:*

[www.teachersandfamilies.com/nursery/index.html](http://www.teachersandfamilies.com/nursery/index.html)

[www.rif.org/leadingtoreading/en/](http://www.rif.org/leadingtoreading/en/)



## Song for Baby

### Cows in the Barn

*(to the tune of "Wheels on the Bus")*

*(Sing along with baby bouncing on your knee.)*

The cows in the barn go moo, moo, moo

Moo, moo, moo; moo, moo, moo.

The cows in the barn go moo, moo, moo,

All day long.

*Additional verses:*

The ducks in the pond go quack, quack, quack...

The sheep in the field go baa, baa, baa...

The piggies in their pens go oink, oink, oink...

## Rima para bebé

### Dulce Canta el Burro

Dulce canta el burro al ir a comer.

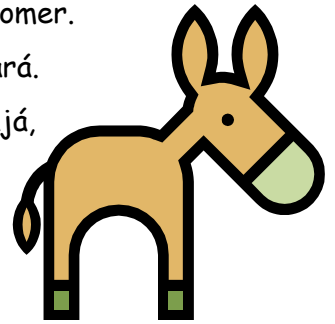
Si no lo cuidamos, él rebuznará.

Cají, cajó, cajá, cají, cajó, cajá,

Cají, cajó, cajaaaaá,

cají, cajó, cajá.

*(Se repite)*



### What your library can do for you...

Ask your librarian about story times and other programs that are offered for babies and toddlers. Most story times for young children focus on rhymes and sounds.

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